

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 05087 271632Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 COME-00 EB-08 AID-05 /106 W  
-----054671 282256Z /14

R 271512Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1988  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USINT HAVANA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 5087

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: CJ, PDEV  
SUBJECT: CAYMAN ISLANDS: THE PROBLEM OF INDEPENDENCE

REF: KINGSTON 5085 (NOTAL)

1. DURING A VISIT TO GEORGETOWN, CAPITAL OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS, FROM JUNE 15-18 AN EMBOFF FOUND THE BRITISH AND THE CAYMANIANS DIVIDED ON THE SUBJECT OF INDEPENDENCE. JUST PRIOR TO THE EMBOFFS VISIT, R.C. STRATON DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY AT THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEPENDENT TERRITORIES VISITED THE ISLANDS. THE CAYMANIAN OFFICIALS SAID STRATON WAS UN-AMBIGUOUS IN EXPRESSING HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEW THAT THE CAYMANS WERE A BURDEN AND AN EMBARRASSMENT TO THE UK IN THE UN, A BURDEN LONDON WOULD LIKE TO SHED.

2. CAYMANIAN OFFICIALS AND OTHER PROSPEROUS CAYMANIANS -- WHO HAVE ONE OF THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF LIVING IN THE CARIBBEAN, WITH AN AVERAGE PER CAPITA INCOME OF MORE THAN \$2,000 PER YEAR -- VIEW THE PROSPECT OF INDEPENDENCE  
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WITH ALARM. THEY BELIEVE, WITH GOOD REASON, THAT THEY ARE TOO SMALL AND TOO PROSPEROUS TO BE LEFT ALONE BY THEIR LARGER NEIGHBORS, CUBA AND JAMAICA.

3. THESE SAME OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGE VOLUNTARILY THAT THE WEALTH DISTRIBUTION CURB IS TOO STRONGLY TILTED TOWARD THE VERTICAL. THEY COUNT ON INCREASED SMALL

SCALE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AND CONTROLLED EXPANSION  
OF TOURISM TO BROADEN PROSPERITY WITHOUT THE NECESSITY  
FOR A REDISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH VIA GOVERNMENT INTERVEN-  
TION. FOR THIS, THEY NEED AND WANT UK AND US SUPPORT.  
CAST OFF ON THEIR OWN, THEY FEEL THEY WOULD BE LESS  
ATTRACTIVE TO US INVESTORS AND EASY PREY FOR PREDATORY  
FORCES IN THE AREA WITH IDEOLOGIES THEY BELIEVE WOULD  
BE RUINOUS FOR THEIR PRESENT ECONOMIC PROSPERITY.

4. THE COLONIAL MANTLE IS VIEWED BY PROSPEROUS  
CAYMANIANS AS A SECURITY COVER THEY DO NOT WANT TO  
LOSE. WHILE IT WOULD BE NORMAL TO EXPECT OTHERS, THE  
LESS PROSPEROUS AND UNEMPLOYED, TO FEEL DIFFERENTLY,  
THEIR VOICES SEEM MUTED.  
IRVING

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INDEPENDENCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978KINGST05087  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780268-0349  
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**Message ID:** 6f24667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Reference:** 78 KINGSTON 5085  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2197178  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CAYMAN ISLANDS: THE PROBLEM OF INDEPENDENCE  
**TAGS:** PDEV, CJ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014